IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A movable chute apparatus for a mowing machine, the chute apparatus comprising:

   a. a chute flap attached to a housing of a mowing machine, the chute flap being movable between a closed chute flap position and an open chute flap position wherein the chute flap provides a discharge chute for discharging material from the housing; and

   b. a retaining flap having a first flat portion extending along a first plane and a second flat portion extending along a second plane different from the first plane, the retaining flap being moveably attached to the housing of the mowing machine for movement of at least a portion of the retaining flap in an at least generally vertical direction away from the housing, the retaining flap being movable independent of the chute flap between a retaining position and a non-retaining position wherein the retaining flap can in its retaining position provide support to maintain the chute flap in either its closed or open chute flap position.

2. (Previously Presented) The movable chute apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the chute flap is pivotally attached to the housing.

3. (Original) The movable chute apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the chute flap is biased toward either its open chute flap position or its closed chute flap position.

4. (Original) The movable chute apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the chute flap further comprises a flange portion and a wall portion.

5. (Previously Presented) The moveable chute apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the retaining flap is pivotally attached to the housing.

6. (Original) The movable chute apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the retaining flap is biased toward its retaining position.

7. (Original) The movable chute apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the retaining flap further comprises a first section and a second section, the second section being adapted for securing the chute flap in its closed chute flap position.

8. (Original) The movable chute apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the chute flap and the retaining flap are both rotatable about different axes.

9. (Currently Amended) A movable chute apparatus for a mowing machine, the chute apparatus comprising:

a. a chute flap attached to a housing of a mowing machine, the chute flap being movable between a closed chute flap position wherein the chute flap can provide a portion of the housing and an open chute flap position wherein the chute flap can provide a discharge chute for discharging material from the housing; and

b. a retaining flap <u>having a first flat portion extending along a first plane and a second flat portion extending along a second plane different from the first plane, the retaining flap being</u> moveably attached to the housing of the mowing machine for movement of at least a portion of the retaining flap in an at least generally vertical direction away from the housing, the retaining flap being movable independent of the chute flap between a retaining position and a non-retaining position, at least a portion of the retaining flap being adapted for overlapping at least a portion of the chute flap when the chute flap is in its closed chute flap position.

10. (Previously Presented) The movable chute apparatus according to claim 9, wherein the chute flap is pivotally attached to the housing.

11. (Original) The movable chute apparatus according to claim 9, wherein the chute flap is biased toward either its open chute flap position or its closed chute flap position.

12. (Original) The movable chute apparatus according to claim 9, wherein the chute flap further comprises a flange portion and a wall portion.

13. (Previously Presented) The movable chute apparatus according to claim 9, wherein the retaining flap is pivotally attached to the housing.

14. (Original) The movable chute apparatus according to claim 9, wherein the retaining flap is biased toward its retaining position.

15. (Original) The movable chute apparatus according to claim 9, wherein the retaining flap further comprises a first section and a second section, the second section being adapted for securing the chute flap in its closed chute flap position.

16. (Original) The movable chute apparatus according to claim 9, wherein the chute flap and the retaining flap are both rotatable about different axes.

17. (Currently Amended) A movable chute apparatus for a mowing machine, the chute apparatus comprising:

a. a chute flap attached to a housing of a mowing machine, the chute flap being movable between a closed chute flap position and an open chute flap position wherein the chute flap provides a discharge chute for discharging material from the housing; and

b. a retaining flap having a first ~~section~~ flat portion extending along a first plane and pivotally attached to the housing of the mowing machine and a second ~~section~~ flat portion extending along a second plane different from the first plane and disposed at least generally perpendicularly to the first ~~section~~ portion, the retaining flap being movable independent of the chute flap between a retaining position and a non-retaining position wherein the second ~~section~~ portion of the retaining flap is adapted to overlap at least a portion of the chute flap to maintain the chute flap in its closed chute flap position and wherein at least a portion of the retaining flap is moveable in a direction at least generally vertically away from the housing.

18. (Currently Amended) A method for moving a chute apparatus of a mowing machine, the method comprising:

a. lifting a retaining flap having a first flat portion extending along a first plane and a second flat portion extending along a second plane

different from the first plane, the retaining flap being moveably attached to a housing on a mowing machine, wherein ~~at least a portion of~~ lifting the retaining flap ~~moves in a direction at least generally vertically away from the housing, and wherein the retaining flap~~ moves the retaining flap from a retaining position to a non-retaining position to allow a chute flap attached to the mowing machine to move independent of the retaining flap from a closed position to an open position whereby the chute flap provides a discharge chute.

19. (Original) The method of claim 18 further comprising returning the retaining flap to the retaining position where the retaining flap provides support to maintain the chute flap in the open chute flap position.

20. (Currently Amended) A method for moving a chute apparatus of a mowing machine, the method comprising:

a. lifting a retaining flap having a first flat portion extending along a first plane and a second flat portion extending along a second plane different from the first plane, the retaining flap being moveably attached to a housing on a mowing machine, wherein lifting the retaining flap moves the retaining flap from a retaining position to a non-retaining position by pivoting the retaining flap along a first axis wherein at least a portion of the retaining flap moves in a direction at least generally

vertically away from the housing for the retaining flap to allow a chute flap attached to the mowing machine to pivot independent of the retaining flap along a second axis from a closed position to an open position whereby the chute flap provides a discharge chute; and

b. wherein the first axis and the second axis are substantially perpendicular to one another.

21. (Original) The method of claim 20 further comprising returning the retaining flap to the retaining position where the retaining flap provides support to maintain the chute flap in the open chute flap position.

22. (Previously Presented) The movable chute apparatus according to claim 17 wherein the chute flap and the retaining flap are both rotatable about substantially perpendicular axes.